



Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Tiger delivers 2015 State of the Nation Address

Feb. 15, 2015

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"Rvfo Cuse"

Winter's Younger Brother

Principal chief outlines accomplishments, goals

George Tiger/MCN Principal Chief

OKMULGEE, Okla. — 'The Mvskoke Way' is very sacred and has served as the theme for this administration and is paramount in respecting the ways of our elders, our tradition and culture, the ways our children and generations that will follow, are what is considered our way. That we will always honor those ways is our will and desire. This State of Nation represents the strides we have made to assure our continuation of 'The Mvskoke Way.'

The purpose this morning is to report to you in this State of Nation as mandated by the Constitution of the great Muscogee (Creek) Nation, our progress and successes over this past calendar year with the support of the National Council.

We made a commitment to our citizens that we would be aggressive and progressive and that 'status quo' was no longer acceptable. I have heard from hundreds of citizens near and far who are excited in



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger delivered the MCN State of the Nation Address Jan. 31. at the Mound auditorium on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

the accomplishments of their Nation. We have continued to use the dominant themes of 'peoplehood' and 'nationhood' to achieve success as a self-sufficient tribal sovereign. It is a fact this administration, the previous and current legislature has exercised sovereignty to its fullest with initiatives implemented to improve and expand service for our citizens.

This morning, my State of

Nation will be very simple. The emphasis was to use our resources, citizens, employees, financial means and working in a unified effort as elected officials to invest in ourselves as a Nation. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is strong as ever.

Health

A survey I commissioned was taken prior to this administration taking office. It reflected citizens

wanted and needed improved and expanded health care. The former Okmulgee Memorial Hospital was purchased by assuming its debt of more than \$5 million, no funds came from MCN treasury. Today, I am pleased to report the assumed debt in just eleven months now stands at \$70,000. It is providing much needed and expanded health

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Funding authorized for satellite offices during Council session

Legislation approved to create Muscogee Nation Businesses LLC

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a quarterly session Jan. 31 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger delivered the State of the Nation address to a full auditorium. Tiger's speech detailed MCN accomplishments in 2014 as well as his vision for 2015.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- NCR 15-001 Selecting James K. Byrd to serve on the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Board of Directors. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-003 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a Siemens medical service agreement between MCN Medical Center and Siemens Medical Solutions USA. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-004 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract on behalf of the MCN Department of Health and the Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-005 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a uniform hospital affiliation agreement on behalf of MCNDH and the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Barnett sponsored the resolution,

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MCN presents historical map of Tulsa to mayor

Map outlines Tulsa family allotments

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger presented a map to Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett that displays the original Creek allotments along with modern day Tulsa Jan. 23, at the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum in Tulsa.

"It shows who the original allottees were for a considerable amount of the area in and around our fine city Tulsa, Oklahoma," Bartlett said. "It is very interesting. It certainly gives us a real serious tie to our history to those that preceded us and started Tulsa."

The work is a combination of two maps, a layer that illustrates the early tribal allotted lands overlaid onto a map of Tulsa.

"Creek citizens were each allotted 160 acres of land," Tiger



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger presented a map Jan. 23 to Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett that displays the original Muscogee (Creek) allotments along with modern day Tulsa at the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum in Tulsa, Okla.

said. "These allotments covered the entire area stretching from Admiral Boulevard to 121st Street South and from Mingo Road to 65th W. Avenue."

The map indicates the names of the families that received allotments and where those

lands would be located in modern Tulsa.

"The map shows the names of many prominent Tulsa families such as the Perrymans, Graysons, Bruners, Blands and Partridge to name just a few," Tiger said.

Descendants of the Perryman family, J.D. Colbert and Shelby Navarro completed the map project.

"They felt like it was something that had to be done in terms of providing some type of document for history," Tiger said. "They got together and were able to really collaborate with some other documents that were available historically on the allotted land of our ancestors."

According to an MCN press release, the map uses data from 'Hastain's Township Plats of the Creek Nation' published by E. Hastain in 1910. Also represented, are prominent city landmarks along with how the name of Tulsa evolved from the Creek language 'Tvlvhasse,' meaning 'Old Town.'

"All Tulsans should be proud of this rich history shared by Indian and non-Indian alike. As

Map - 2



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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

MNBE closes Stone Blade restaurant

MCN to evaluate new plan for property

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises closed Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar Jan. 26 after two years in business. “We went ahead and shut it down. It was not a profitable operation... The building’s an older building and a bigger building so, you know; it wasn’t feasible to continue our operations with that,” MNBE CEO Woody Anderson said. The restaurant was located in the old Okmulgee Country Club. Muscogee (Creek) Nation purchased the building and 159-acre golf course in May 2012 for \$3.6 million.

Anderson elaborated that after the property was purchased, MNBE put a lot of work and money into readying the building for the restaurant’s opening in December 2012. He stated that Stone Blade had not been profitable since it was opened.

“When MNBE took over or was assigned those operations, it was on a temporary basis and it ended up for a longer period of time. But what happens is that facility is it’s a beautiful facility but it’s got a lot of high maintenance with it,” Anderson said.

Around 16 employees were associated with the restaurant when it closed. Part-time employees will receive two weeks of severance pay and full-time employees will receive four weeks.

“If there’s anything we can do to help them, you know; get over in some other positions with the Nation; we’ll do whatever we can



MNN/Gary Fife

The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise operated Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar in Okmulgee, Okla., closed Jan. 26 after two years in business.

do help them,” Anderson said.

Anderson stated that MNBE is working with MCN Department of Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe in order to honor events that have been scheduled at the facility in the coming months.

Anderson estimated that MNBE will save \$25,000-\$30,000 a month after closing the restaurant.

MNBE was formed through the U.S. Small Business Administration 8 (a) Business Development Program, which assists small, disadvantaged businesses in competing in the marketplace. MCN established MNBE to support economic development for MCN outside of gaming.

“Our main deal really that

we’ve done for a number of years has been in the government contracting; doing federal work and that type of stuff,” Anderson said. “We were asked to step in on this and we’re glad to do that for our tribe to try and get these things going.”

Anderson thanked everyone who supported Stone Blade including customers and employees.

“We tried to make a difference there and I think we have,” Anderson said.

The future of the building is unknown, but Anderson is confident that the property will be put to good use.

“The Creek Nation will come up with a really grand plan for the property,” Anderson said.

Reintegration teaches course at Ivy League school



Submission

L to r: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Senior Case Manager Sprint Williams, Harvard University Honoring Nations Director Megan Hill, RIP Manager Tony Fish and Ford Foundation professor and Honoring Nations Associate Director Joseph Kalt.

Program travels to Cambridge

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — One Muscogee (Creek) Nation program recently made a trip to one of the most prestigious colleges in the world.

The MCN Reintegration Program were invited to Cambridge, Mass., for a weeklong course at Harvard University. Although some people attend this institution to learn, two Reintegration staff members actually went to teach.

“We were invited out to Harvard to speak to the students there and tell them about our

department and what we do,” RIP Manager Tony Fish said.

The four-day course taught from Jan. 13-16, was a part of a larger curriculum called Native Americans in the 21st Century: Nation Building.

Representatives from tribes around Alaska and other countries such as Canada were also among the guest speakers.

According to Fish, RIP is one of the top programs of its kind among the Native American tribes throughout the United States. He feels that this is the reason why Harvard University wanted the program to participate in the weeklong course.

“We are a model program,” Fish said. “They wanted to show the students at Harvard that out

in Indian Country, we are doing everything we can for the betterment of our people, our citizens.”

RIP Senior Case Manager Sprint Williams believes RIP made the most of the opportunity.

“I felt we made an impact when it was our turn to have the discussion for our program,” Williams said. “They had a better understanding of what we do and how we help our citizens for the tribe.”

RIP was allowed 45 minutes to discuss their topic.

“We basically talked about what the program does, the ‘ins and outs’ and what it entails,” Williams said. “Some of the people who attended the course were not aware that a program like ours even existed.”

The discussion was immediately followed by a question and answer session, which was suppose to take an hour and 15 minutes but turned into a longer discussion.

“Overall, it was a great discussion.

“We had questions about the program and we also had a lot of feedback on how to better the program. Mainly, it was everyone wanting to know more about us,” Williams said.

Overall, Williams was delighted.

“We were excited to get the invite,” Williams said. “The experience was amazing and unbelievable.”

Fish stated that Harvard paralleled this sentiment.

“The instructor said we had done a fabulous job with our presentation,” Fish said.

ADDRESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

care to all citizens. The former George Nigh physical rehab center through investment funds saved from third party collections, not from MCN treasury purchased the facility. A new Express Care clinic was opened in Okmulgee. The very first tribally owned and operated Dialysis Center began operation at the Koweta Clinic with plans to add other centers as we update our facilities. The very first MRI unit is being completed in Okmulgee.

A service at one time that was contracted out will now allow savings of those funds to be used within our health system. The installation of Electronic Health Record for hospital and clinics in compliance with mandated policy for all hospitals and clinics though out the country. Acquired a Home Health for, purchased a DME for easier access to supplies for our citizens. Increased third party collections to 22 million a year. The goal next year is 25 to 30 million. The addition of additional services such as a chiropractor, orthopedic surgeon, two full time podiatrists, wound care program and an orthodontist. We’re currently negotiating for oral surgeon and a pediatric dentist. We acquired accreditation for the Okemah hospital and are waiting to receive accreditation for our clinics. We just finalized funding for the new hospital in Okemah, and the new Eufaula clinic. The clinic is a joint venture with Indian Health Service and we anticipate breaking ground in the next two months for the facility.

I believe we have an excellent start in achieving the wishes of our citizens in improving and expanding our health services.

Department of Interior Affairs

Realty Trust Services processed 64 acres of land from fee to trust status further enhancing MCN sovereignty and jurisdiction. We’re working with the Nation’s lobbyist in approvals granted on 38 of 64 pending applications with 12-15 additional parcels scheduled for approval. Oil and Gas negotiated and executed a MCN oil and gas agreement, the first since 1898 and surpassing previous federal standards and

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MAP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mayor, I am pleased to receive this map with the hope that it will continue to build awareness of Tulsa’s unique history,” Bartlett said. The map will be displayed at the Tulsa City Hall and at the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum.

Prints of the map can be purchased for \$75 by contacting the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum at: 918-712-9484 or online at: WWW.tulsahistory.org.

Who represents you: Selina Jayne-Dornan



MNN/Amanda Rutland
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Selina Jayne-Dornan discusses taking the first step out of her comfort zone, which would eventually be the gateway to a career in Hollywood and politics.

Makeup artist turned politician seeks to serve

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — On the first day of her junior year at Eufaula High School, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Selina Jayne-Dornan was terrified after receiving her class schedule.

The last class the timid wallflower wanted to take was speech, so she rushed to the counselor’s office to beg and plead to be switched to a subject she found more fitting.

Selina did not receive the answer she wanted, but was able to compromise. She would attend speech the first day and if she absolutely hated it, then the counselor would place her in a different class.

“The first thing he made me do was stand up and say who I was,” Selina said. “But, you know; I did it. It was like a hurdle for me.”

Selina blossomed into the world of drama soon after, receiving ‘Outstanding Student’ in speech and drama her senior year.

Taking the speech class would be the nudge Selina needed to pursue acting and eventually politics.

As the first in her family to receive higher education, Selina graduated from Eastern Oklahoma State College.

In the years after high school, Selina was encouraged by the people around her and inspired to experience life outside of what she knew in Eufaula.

“It’s not just the jobs but the people that you meet and how they affect you, and what they do just to add to your life,” Selina said. “It’s just the little things.”

After college, Selina was a part of the American Indian Theatre Company in Tulsa, Okla., and appeared in Honda commercials.

But it was the late Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bob Hicks who would open her eyes to the bright lights of Hollywood.

The two had lunch together one day and Hicks asked if she enjoyed acting. After Selina responded ‘yes,’ Hicks asked, “Well, why are you here?”

“That was all it took,” Selina said. “The next thing I knew, I put my house on the market... I set my goals and reached my goals and within six months, you know; I moved out there.”

Selina wanted to support herself while pursuing her acting career, so she enrolled in makeup school. She graduated at the top of her class, and enjoyed working on ‘D’ movies and learning about the business.

Her first big break came on TNT’s ‘Broken Chain,’ where she worked in the makeup department.

Selina attributed her success to networking with people in the business.

She landed acting roles in ‘3 Ninjas Knuckle Up’ and ‘Grizzly Adams and the Legend of Dark Mountain.’ However, Selina started to see her acting career become sidelined.

“It seemed like the more I was there, the more makeup jobs I was getting,” Selina said. “It soon came to the point that I was so busy working makeup that I didn’t have time to go to auditions.”

She landed her first ‘A’ list film as a makeup artist for ‘Air Force One,’ starring Harrison Ford. Selina also worked on ‘Boston Public,’ ‘Bring It On,’ ‘That 70s Show,’ and ‘Geronimo.’

Selina learned that actors are sometimes very different than how the public perceives them.

“They all have their persona on film, but they’re just real people off film,” Selina said. “I met a lot of good people.”

From being on the set of different TV shows and movies, Selina would take another step into the world of producing.

She received the chance to manage Seven Hills Pictures.

“I learned how to handle things and to make things happen and became a very good multi-tasker,” Selina said.

The owner of the company desired to move the company to New York, so two days before the scheduled move, Selina decided to stay in Los Angeles. She returned to being a makeup artist until she began to feel homesick.

After thirteen years in L.A., Selina called it a wrap and returned home to search for a job with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to give back and learn more about the tribe.

She was hired by the MCN Executive Director’s Office and then was compelled by the needs of citizens to run for MCN National Council.

She served as a McIntosh District representative from 2009-2011. While serving on the Council, Selina noticed a gap between tribal and local governments.

She ran for mayor of Eufaula, Okla., in 2011 in order to connect the two governments. Her term will end in April.

Currently, Selina serves as MCN part-time gaming commissioner, on the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, and Eufaula Indian Community vice-chair.

She hopes to continue to serve and assist people in any way she is needed.

Selina suggested that trying is the key to finding success, talent and happiness. She encourages others to venture out of their comfort zone and take that scary speech class.

“Take that step, walk through that door and see what happens,” Selina said.

Selina is a member of the Wotko (Raccoon) Clan and Yufalv-Cvnete Tribal Town. She is the daughter of the late Janetta Walker of Eufaula and the wife of Jim Dornan.

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How to: apply for a position at MCN

Get prepared; get employed

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — When applying for a job, some people may not realize that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has four different human resource departments with four different applications. The MCN Human Resource Department hires for what are considered government jobs, which are positions that are organized under the executive, legislative or judicial branches. Some of the departments considered to be government jobs are: finance, housing, social services and tribal construction services. The MCN Department of Health Human Resource Department hires for all health jobs. MCN casinos hire for most gaming jobs except surveillance and Office of Public Gaming positions. These are handled as MCN government jobs. Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise hires for positions such as the travel plazas in Okmulgee and Muskogee, Okla. Most of the applications ask for the same information, but there are slight differences. This is a walkthrough of the application.

Step 1 Gather all the information needed. This will save time later.

Required information:

- o email address
- o date of birth
- o Social Security number
- o address
- o phone number/alternate phone number
- o tribal roll number
- o blood quantum
- o emergency contacts-phone numbers
- o education history-where when
- o professional licenses
- o previous employers addresses, phone numbers, dates
- o references

Note: MCN casinos require three references; two that are acquaintances of five years or lon-



MNNAmanda Rutland Muscogee (Creek) Nation employment is classed under four different entities: MCN Human Resources, MCN Department of Health Human Resources, MCN Casinos and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise.

ger and another of at least one year.MCN casinos will not accept family members as references.

Step 2 Complete the application.

The MCN application is available on the MCN website: www.mcn-nsn.gov. Follow the job opportunities link under the careers tab. MCN HR only accepts online applications. There is also a kiosk available at the MCN HR department to access the application. MCNDH only accepts online applications as well. They can be found under the jobs tab at: www.creekhealth.org. The MCN casino application is online at: www.creekcasino-jobs.com. In order to navigate to the application, click the career opportunities link. It will bring up a search engine to locate jobs by type or location. Once a job opening list is displayed, select the link to the position and the apply button will be displayed. Plan for least 30-45 minutes to complete this application. MNBE only accepts paper applications. Applications can be picked up in person at the MNBE office, 1018 South Wood Drive in Okmulgee, or printed from under the employment tab at: www.mnbe.com.

Tips

When completing the application, fill it out completely. If it is a written application, write neatly.

Include a resume with the application and check it for typos and misspelled words and also have another person review it. “Attach a resume is probably the best tip I could offer with detailed work experience because that application and resume is the only way you have to sell yourself to the manager that is reviewing your application,” MCN HR Specialist II Greg Walker said. For help writing a resume, contact MCN Employment and Training Department Career Specialists Jessina McBee or Kimberly Martel at: 918-732-7777. McBee also recommended OKJobMatch.com for resume building. “As soon as they get through creating their account, it starts off by creating their resume,” McBee said. “Whenever they get through, it formats it for them.” For more information about job opportunities at MCN, contact HR at: 918-732-7827 or visit: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Employment/positions.html. For more information about MCNDH job opportunities, contact HR at: 918-756-4333 or visit: <http://creekhealth.org/index.php/employment/jobs>. For more information about MCN casino jobs email: careers@creeknation-casino.com or visit: <http://www.creekcasinojobs.com/jobs/Pages/SearchJobs.aspx>. For more information about MNBE jobs, contact Kerrie Fisher at: 918-752-3158.

How to: apply for foster care or adoption

Mvskoke children need Mvskoke families

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According Muscogee (Creek) Nation Foster Care and Adoption Certification and Recruitment Program Manager Robyn Wind, it is vital that we have Muscogee (Creek) homes for our Muscogee (Creek) children who are currently in tribal custody. “We would love to have more Creek families taking care of the children that are in our custody,” FCACRP Manager Robyn Wind said. “Having more Creek families taking care of our children will help keep our culture alive.” Here are instructions on how to apply:

Step 1 — Gather all the information needed. This will save time later.

Required information:

- Driver’s license
- Social Security cards
- Tribal Citizenship or Certificate Degree of Indian Blood

cards for the applicants

- Copies of birth certificate (original or copies)
- Marriage or divorce decrees if applicable (original or copies)

Step 2 — Complete the application

Currently, the application is not available online. It can be delivered to you in person by: mail, email or fax.

- Background check is required
- Anyone over the age of 18 will need a background check and child welfare history.
- Background check will take approximately 24 hours.
- List six personal references. Only two may be family members.
- Applicants will also need to do a fingerprint check.
- Fingerprint appointment will be set up by FCACRP.
- Fingerprint results should take approximately four – five days.
- Should applicants have pets, they will need to provide a copy of up-to-date pet vaccinations for each pet.

Note: A child welfare his-

tory form is a form sent in to the U.S. Department of Human Services from the FCACRP. DHS will check their database to see if the applicants have been in a welfare case or if a referral has been called on them and also the outcome. DHS sends that report to FCACRP.

Step 3 — Obtain Medical Examination

Note: The physical will need to be done as soon as possible and preferably, be turned in with the application.

Step 4 — Home Visit

Note: After application process is finished, a home visit will be scheduled. The assessment is to make sure that the home is safe for the child or children. There will also be a home study interview later with the department about the applicant’s life. FCACRP is now able to send applications to Muscogee (Creek) families who do not reside in the MCN jurisdiction or the State of Oklahoma. However, this is available for adoption only. For more information regarding foster care or adoption, contact FCACRP at: 918-732-7869.

How to: break up with a significant other

FVPP encourages direct, firm and safe approach

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Whether it is the day before Valentine’s Day, a week after Christmas or a month before a birthday, there is not a bad day to end a relationship when necessary. Maybe the feelings are not there anymore, or the relationship has become unhealthy; either way Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program does not recommend staying with a partner just to make it through a holiday. “If you want out, get out,” FVPP Youth Advocate Gwynn Ridge said. Ridge said that unless the couple has discussed an issue and are both working to fix it, it is unlikely that something will change. While these ways may avoid confrontation; ignoring the person, waiting for a fight or getting a friend to relay the change of heart are not recommended.

Step 1 - Have a plan.

Once the decision is made, make a plan for when and where to break the news. Ridge suggested writing down words to say to avoid nervousness. Seeking advice from an adult or trusted friend can also be helpful.

Step 2 - Break up in person.

Many have heard of a person ending a relationship through text message or changing their relationship status on Facebook. FVPP recommends cutting the strings face-to-face. Bringing a friend can provide support for cold feet and may also be helpful for protecting against potential retaliation. FVPP recommends thinking about safety first if the relationship has been violent and telling a friend of your intentions, taking someone with you and meeting in a public setting. “You never know what someone’s reaction is going to be in those types of situations,” FVPP Sexual Assault Advocate Mitzi Pope said.

Step 3 - Be assertive, firm and clear.

Be confident, persistent and straightforward with the meeting’s purpose and intentions afterwards. Make a clean break and as difficult as it may be, do not try to lead the person to believe that there might still be a chance. “...being able to say that verbally with your body language and your facial expression... that comes off different than it does in a text message,” Pope said. Avoid being cruel and heartless to the other person. Break ups are not pleasant and saying harsh words will just make matters worse.

Step 4 - Move forward.

Take pleasure in friendships instead of dwelling on the loss of a boyfriend or girlfriend.

FVPP encourages teens to learn to be an individual and work towards their own goals and aspirations instead of just pleasing their partner.

Step 5 - Search for a new relationship based upon equality, respect and individuality.

Ridge said that a relationship should not dictate a person’s life. “They should still be able to live their individual lives and be their individual person,” Ridge said. Advocacy site www.loveisrespect.org suggests that equality in a relationship includes: being free to explore your own interests, being able to express yourself in an argument and coming to a compromise and feeling safe with your partner. The site recommends looking for a partner who is not excessively negative, does not get angry with you about spending time with friends and family, respects boundaries and is uplifting.

Step 6 - Learn relationship dos and don’ts.

Speak up about a friend’s relationship. This can help someone understand healthy versus unhealthy relationships and be the reassurance they need to make a move in the opposite direction. Do not ‘play fight.’ According to FVPP, pretending to push, shove or hit someone is not a foundation of a healthy relationship no matter the intention or gentleness of the force. Ridge said that play fighting is one person showing dominance over another and can evolve into other violent behavior. According to statistics provided in 2009 by the Liz Claiborne Inc. and Family Violence Prevention Fund, in one year, one in three teens will experience sexual or physical abuse or threats from a boyfriend or girlfriend. FVPP recommends that teens be aware of extreme jealousy in relationships. According to www.stoptheviolence.org, jealousy in teen relationships can lead to controlling behavior, possessiveness, manipulation and threats. Harassment over social media and texting is another issue in teen relationships. In a 2007 Fifth and Pacific Companies survey of teens in the U.S., half of those surveyed said they used instant messaging to communicate with their partner one or more times per hour. One quarter of those surveyed said they contacted each other at least 30 times per hour or more. In the same report, 27 percent of teens stated they have been text ‘checked’ by their partners 10 or more times per hour. Nine percent stated that they were ‘checked’ by their partners more than 50 times an hour. FVPP encourages parents to talk to their teens about healthy and unhealthy relationships. To find out what constitutes a healthy and unhealthy relationship, visit: www.breakthecycle.org, www.nomore.org or www.loveisrespect.org. For more information about MCN Family Violence Prevention Program contact: 918-732-7869.

Rock Creek - Table Games - Electronic Games



This facility is regulated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming



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ADDRESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

of all programs, monitors and updates policies to reflect the growth of the last three years. Expanding the use of IT tools such as Laserfiche Software Application and Paperless Management System. Two weeks ago, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was awarded the Run Smarter Award for exceptional use of Laserfiche to reach new heights of efficiency and productivity by implementing the new paperless system.

This is the first time the award has been presented to a tribal government. Historically, it's been exclusively awarded to Fortune 500/1000 companies. Another first for Muscogee (Creek) Nation! A Mvskoke History Course was taught for all MCN employees to elevate knowledge and awareness of the MCN history. I'm pleased to report that over 1,000 employees have completed the course.

Department of Commerce
Fosters, promotes and develops commerce in and outside of the Nation to strengthen the regional economy. Secretary of the Nation filed Articles of Organization for sixteen (16) Limited Liability Companies pursuant to the provisions of the MCN Limited Liability Company Act, one non-profit files articles of organization. Two Uniform Commercial Code transactions were filed under the Title 33 Code.

The Compressed Natural Gas program fostered an agreement with a third party company with the intent to utilize the Oklahoma State Tax Credits to help finance the infrastructure for Compressed Natural Gas at the Okmulgee Travel Plaza. The plan is to utilize the third party company to construct the CNG station infrastructure, including the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company pipeline extension. We will incorporate CNG into the Travel Plaza operations under Travel Plaza management. The Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) has total dollars loaned by the Mvskoke Loan Fund in the amount of \$363,145 that created 58 jobs, which average one job per \$6200 loaned. A disabled veteran came to Commerce to build his credit and to get a loan for his business. He was awarded a loan and now has a successful business due this wonderful resource. Grants totaling over \$1.2 million have been procured and the program was awarded CDFI certification from the U.S. Department of Treasury this past fall and has seen 186 online and classroom participants for the CDFI program.

The Muscogee Nation Small Business Center since its inception has counseled more than 150 Creek citizens in the past year with 20 starting their own businesses. There were 85 jobs created and retained by these business startups. The Center continues to provide technical assistance and presentation on behalf of the Nation.

Department of Housing

Continue to provide decent, safe housing while building stronger and healthier communities for low income participants in the tribal jurisdiction. There were approximately 85 families that were provided housing in the last year. Programs include Development or new construction, Mortgage Assistance, Acquisition, and Alternative Housing. The department operates and manages six rental apartment complexes with a total of 368 units with an overall average of 88 percent occupancy. There are currently 1050 homebuyers in the department's inventory. Due to legislation passed recently, the department is aggressively pursuing 184 financing to address the waiting list. Housing took on the role of general contractor for new construction homes, subcontracting as needed and buying the materials with a savings of 7-10 percent in costs of building a home. Today's Housing department reflects an increase in productivity by implementing new initiatives.

An apprentice program in collaboration with Tribal Construction, Employment Training, and TERO is proving to be successful in providing training for the industry. A Elderly Rental Subsidy Program is a new initiative being planned in the 2015 Indian Housing Plan to address the needs of citizens on a fixed income.

MNBE

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise currently employees 43 Mvskoke citizens. Muscogee International, LLC (MI) was planned financed and implemented with the assistance of MNBE. MI is an SBA 8 (a) certified company. MNBE just completed five years of work in Afghanistan and developed a Nation to Nation relationship with Miami Nation of Oklahoma through Miami Business Services to pursue contract opportunities.

Department of Education and Training

A number of initiatives were started in 2014 such as: the Botball Program, Literacy, Acellus Learning system, a tutorial program for our students at Eufaula Dorm, Mvskoke language apps for iPhone and Android devices, audio books for Literacy program, Head Start, daycare and adult language classes and state teacher certifications for language teachers to be certified to teach in public schools. Higher Education is providing student debit cards and a Emergency Scholarship funding grant. JOM continues the very popular Challenge Bowl using tablets now and also Advance Placement Incentives. Employment and Training collaborating in the apprentice program with Housing, TERO and Housing. GED classes are still being offered, Career Assessment Center and monthly workshops are also being offered.

The Higher Education Scholarship Foundation held a golf tournament for the purpose of raising funds. We initiated a work place giving program and a direct mailing campaign. The Foundation has raised over \$400,000 and presented

numerous scholarships. The Head Start Program collaborated with Stidham, Henryetta, and Dewar schools and introduced MyOn to Head Start centers.

The Reintegration Program received a national award for Outstanding Criminal Justice Tribal Program by the National Criminal Justice Association. Received CTAS Purpose Area 3 grant. We are in process of finalizing plans for New Transitional Living facility. We opened a store where donated clothing, furniture, living and household items can be repurposed for those in need. We assisted 125 children with toys and supplies from the annual toy drive and chili cook-off and served 113 clients in areas of housing groceries, clothing drug and alcohol assessment/treatment, driver's license reinstatement, household items, utilities, transportation, court advocacy, and job placement. TERO has been involved with construction projects by providing jobs. In the short time of the program, it has certified 144 Native-owned businesses with 44 being Creek owned, a new program that has a bright future.

Gaming

Gaming continues to be the financial strength through distributions to the Nation and allows for many of service activities of the Nation to exist. Gaming had an increase of \$7 million or 2.3 percent over fiscal year 2013. Operating expenses saw a decrease of \$3 million over the previous year and increased labor efficiency and food cost margins. Distribution increased by \$5.1 million over the previous year. There were a number of remodels at River Spirit and the addition of Johnny Rockets, a private gaming venue for our best customers, which is the only one of its kind in Tulsa. Muskogee Casino had a grand opening for their remodel land expansion in April. One Fire Casino in Okmulgee got approval for a sports bar construction and gaming expansion.

Bristow, Checotah, Eufaula and Okemah are currently being considered for expansion or remodel. Tribal employment is a priority at the Casinos with emphasis on our citizens. Citizen employment increased from the previous year. Majority of the General Managers at the casinos are citizens of MCN.

OneFire Holding Company

In the last year, a change in leadership occurred, with OneFire building a leadership team and developing guiding policies and procedures. We developed a thorough investment evaluation process, reviewing over 50 plus investment opportunities. We established a transparent financial reporting and communications with stakeholders. It has closed and invested over \$7 million in impactful projects that are performing as expected and beginning to employ citizens. The major accomplishment was securing an anchor tenant for RiverWalk that in turn, is attracting interest from dozens of potential tenants. We began the transfer of the SIPS plant to a for profit business entity and the

transition is going well.

Department of Community and Human Services

WIC officially opened their new building in August of 2014. Since its opening, participation has increased by 4 percent. TANF has been approved for an additional three years issued by the Department of Health and Human Services and Office of Children and Family Services. TANF opened a satellite office in Jenks as a central location for citizens living in the northern region of the jurisdiction. Family Violence Program's Victim Advocates Mitzi Pope and Tina Qualls became the first tribal program advocates to be awarded the Oklahoma Victim Advocate of the year. The Family Violence Prevention Program was awarded three grants totaling more than \$1.2 million.

Child Care hosted Cultural Day and had over 1,000 guests attend from 29 schools, the largest ever. The director of Child Care serves on the board of National Indian Child Care Association. Community Research and Development produced the first edition of the National Resource Directory for the Nation, a publication that is very popular. It also launched text message and mobile alert service to communities and citizens. A groundbreaking was held for the new Food Distribution center in Coweta and anticipation is growing for participants in that area for its opening. The Social Security Assistance Program is busy as it's increased participation and allowed staff to increase from one to four. The Youth Services Program (Investing in Mvskoke Youth) started in November. It's currently working with citizens of the Nation to determine needs of youth ages 12-24, the at-risk age, to create new programs and services. Foster care and Adoption has seen response to its applications and increased its numbers by 50 percent since January of last year.

The Department of Community and Human Services initiated the first Listening Meetings though out Creek Nation. Sessions were a success as citizens were able to express their concerns with my office and cabinet.

Citizenship Office

In February, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics approved new Citizenship ID for use at pharmacies. In May, the Oklahoma Department of Narcotics added our Citizenship ID to the list of only seven tribal identification cards approved as a secondary type of identification when obtaining services. In June, a secondary barcode was added to ID cards so pharmacies could scan cards when filling prescriptions. In November, a new Veterans ID card was introduced. Veterans from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy may get ID's denoting 'veteran' and their respective branch of service. In December, Children ages 12 and over can now receive photos on their citizenship ID.

College of the Muscogee Nation

Since its inception in 2004 with two courses and 27 students,

it now offers 52 classes with 189 students. The campus now includes a location for students and faculty/staff to support co-curricular activities, learning and services in the new Student Center. The Center features the Mvskoke language, and inspiring cultural graphics that depict the removal from the homelands, location of Creek tribal towns, and the Treaty of 1832. 77 percent of surveyed CMN graduates reported working for tribal governments or enterprises. Of the 189 students 87 percent are citizens and among the 159 graduates, many have expressed an appreciation for receiving a culturally focused education.

Closing

Much of the success has been in context such as transparency, going paperless, tremendous savings in all facets of our operation.

There have been a lot of firsts and recognition given to MCN on its accomplishments on the local, state and national levels.

The Nation will continue to seek economic development and improve services and programs.

These accomplishments came to fruition because of the ability to work hand in hand together! Traditionally, culturally, it's the Mvskoke Way!!

The future of our Nation is bright. Progress should not be delayed. When progress is delayed, history is delayed.

In closing, the Mvskoke Way has never failed us. We gain strength from those before us who set a foundation for future generations. Now, those of us who lead this Nation must continue the journey for our following generations. The oath we took as elected officials to uphold our Constitution remains as solid as ever.

It directs our journey and continues to serve as the pillar for our government.

While 2014 was a great progressive year, there were challenges as well and other challenges lie before us. With each new challenge, this Nation has a proven record that we overcome them by working in a unified manner. In 2014, many of us returned to the homelands of our ancestors to pay homage to those who fought and gave the ultimate sacrifice for our rights as Mvskokvlke. Our language, tradition and culture no longer exist there. Our traditional church hymns and ceremonial songs echoed off the tall long leaf pine trees at Horseshoe Bend and it was described by a tribal member how the trees seemed to sway to the beautiful rhythms and songs. Just as it did for our forefathers, adversity strengthens us, but more importantly unity solidifies us. Their spirits and the spirits of those who served in the House of Kings and House of Warriors still stand with us today.

We pay homage to them by continuing their vision with our display of unity in setting the foundation for future generations.

Mvto!!!

May God bless America, may God bless the State of Oklahoma and may a Sovereign God continue to bless the sovereign Muscogee (Creek) Nation!!

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

LEON CROSLIN



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Leon Harry Croslin, a resident Okmulgee, passed away Jan. 17, 2015 at the age of 74. He was born May 30, 1940 to Jim and Mildred Lucas-Croslin in Snyder, Okla.

He was preceded in death by his: parents, Jim and Mildred Croslin; brothers, Richard Lucas, Benny Lucas, Jr. and Homer Eugene Lucas and one daughter, Regina Beth Croslin.

Survivors include his: son, Michael Leon Croslin and wife, Diana of Caddo; sisters, Della Gordon, Janet Lucas, Joyce Henderson and husband, Fred; brothers, Jim Story and David Lucas; grandchildren, Mikayla Croslin and Alexis Phillips Croslin and numerous other relatives and friends.

Services were scheduled Jan. 22 at the Jackson Funeral Home Chapel in Okmulgee. Mr. Croslin was buried at the Liberty Morris Cemetery under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee. Visitation was held at the Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhand-crematory.com.

KYLE HALLFORD



FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Kyle Brandon Hallford, age 27, of Fayetteville died Jan. 22, 2015, at his residence.

Kyle was born Dec. 15, 1987, in Escondido, Calif. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army having served in Afghanistan with the 21st Signal.

He is survived by: a son, Kade Nathaniel Hallford; daughter, Shaelee Hallford; and a step-son, Kaleb Groesbeck all of Highlandville, Mo.; his parents Joe and Adra Hallford of Texarkana, Ark.; brother, Nate Hallford of Fayetteville; grandparents, Doris and Burt Wayne Mattson of Fouke, Ark.; Virginia Brown of Arizona and Buck and Martha Hallford of California and a number of aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were at Texarkana Funeral Home in Arkansas with Jared Gibson officiating. Burial with military honors followed at Independence Cemetery in Fouke, Ark.

Directions to Independence Cemetery: Take HWY 71 South about two miles past Fouke.

Take a left on County Road 8, then take a left on County Road 9: drive about two miles and the cemetery will be on the right

FREEMAN LOWE



MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Freeman 'Bunky' Lowe was born July 11, 1945 to Andrew Lowe, Sr. and Nora Roberts in Okmulgee, Okla.

He entered into eternal rest Jan. 31, 2015 at the VA Hospital in Muskogee at the age of 69 years, 6 months and 20 days.

Bunky attended Nuyaka High School. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1965, serving two tours in Vietnam as a corporal. Bunky was a combat veteran and a member of the Muscogee Nation Red Stick Society. As a civilian, he was a welder by trade.

Preceding him in death are his: grandfather, Chick Roberts; grandmother, Nancy Roberts; mother, Nora Roberts; father, Andrew Lowe, Sr.; brothers, William and Alexander Lowe; son, Christopher Lowe and longtime companion, Marlene Whiston.

Survivors are his: daughter, Diana Lowe of Okmulgee; brothers, Andrew Lowe, Jr. of Tahlequah, Okla., Rusty Lowe of Catoosa, Okla., Kenneth Lowe, David 'Hutke' Lowe both of Broken Arrow, Okla., Kuna-gi Lowe, Nacoma Lowe both of Tulsa, Okla.; sisters, Joanna Lowe of Glenpool, Okla., Christina Vargas Arriega of Brockport, N.Y. and Andra Samuels of Bixby, Okla.; granddaughters, Christyn Barnett and Carmen Burgess; grandsons, Chance Beasley, Hunter and Thunder Washington and Tyson Baker; great-grandchildren, Kolby, Keegan and Koen Burgess, Kye Wilson and host of nieces, nephews, friends and relatives.

Wake services were held Feb. 3 and officiated by Rev. Norman Daniels at the Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Funeral services were held Feb. 4 and officiated by Rev. Marvin Lowe at the Nuyaka Baptist Church in Okmulgee and Freeman was laid to rest at the Nuyaka Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers are: Scott Lowe, Buster Lowe, Bubba 'Alfred' Lowe, Vincent Lowe, Billy Lowe, Barry Lowe, William Lowe and Chance Beasley.

Military Honors were conducted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhand-crematory.com.

MCN SRO schedule

Media Release

Feb. 17, 24

Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

For more information, contact the MCN SRO at: 405-452-1100.

MVTO

Mvto! To all the Seminole/Muscogee (Creek) citizens that turned out for the Food Sale and Benefit Bingo for Anna and Robert Cully at the Holdenville Indian Community Center Jan. 17. Anna and Robert were at Greenleaf Baptist Church at a wake service.

The news advisory for that evening was for people to stay as warm as possible for the night because the artic cold front was coming in.

Her son, Robert, received word that their house in Oklahoma City was on fire and Anna called me as they left the church and told me her house was on fire and she was so worried about her cat.

She called back later and stated that, "everything was lost" and had lost the cat named 'Bella.'

Robert's friend, Vanessa offered her place for refuge. Thank you, Vanessa for taking care of my sis and her son. Thank you everyone for being at the fundraiser, especially newly elected Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Mr. Louis Hicks.

A special thank you to Patsy Powell and Peggy Factor for jumping in the kitchen and flipping hamburgers to get the food sale going.

And another big thank you to the young ladies: Martha Yahoo-la, Candice Tainpeah, Michelle Meely, Andie and Tobie Meely, Meske Wind, Molly Franks and Veronica Givens and Lucinda Meyers for their help in the kitchen.

The Benefit Sale was kind of off the cuff by Wallace Cully (Robert's dad) and LaQuita; and with help of Jeanette and a huge help from the Holdenville Indian Community Center and also, the ladies that work in the ENP center, Nancy, Pam and Penny. A special thank you! It could not have been a success without everyone there that contributed! May the good Lord bless you all!

"We now that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" Rom. 8:28. If we define the good as only what we can see in this life, then we miss the whole point of the text.

TCIC ELECTION SET FOR FEB. 17

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election Feb. 17 from 6-8 p.m. for the treasurer position.

The deadline for letters of intent and the \$20 payment for background checks is Feb. 6 by 5 p.m.

For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781.

WATSON FAMILY RE-UNION SET FOR FEB. 21

DEWAR, Okla. — A Watson family reunion is set for Feb. 21 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Dewar Indian Community Center. Please bring a covered dish.

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 21

TULSA, Okla. — Haikey Chapel, 8815 E 101 St., Tulsa OK, has set a wild onion dinner for March 21 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dinners, which include: wild onions, brown beans, salt meat or ham, frybread and a vegetable, desert and drink are \$4 for children and \$8 for adults.

For more information call Sandra Bible at: 918-815-7973.

Fire danger is increasing in Oklahoma

BIA/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — After months of little rain, fire danger is on the rise again across the State of Oklahoma.

Dry weather, unusually hot temperatures, and strong north winds have combined to make Oklahoma's forests and grasslands easily flammable. In addition, large fuels such as big branches, logs and downed trees from previous tornadoes and ice storms are very dry inside.

These will burn with great intensity. Keep in mind that dry vegetation, both living and dead, will burn readily under these conditions. Think before you act! Consider that the following objects and activities can start a wildfire, destroy homes, threaten lives and damage our natural resources:

- Cutting hay
- Hay Bailers
- Pump Jacks
- Welding, Cutting, or Grinding
- Unattended Debris Burns
- Unattended Campfires and Charcoal Grills
- Sparks from Chainsaws
- Hot Vehicle Exhaust Systems
- Tossed Cigarettes
- Hot Coals from Wood Burning Stoves

If you see a wildfire on or near Indian lands please contact a number below for immediate assistance Bureau of Indian Affairs Fire Management: 918-680-0383, 918-752-7397, 918-752-7340

Effective immediately: the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has implemented a Burn Permit System in effect for all of Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction.

A BIA burn permit is needed on lands held in trust or restricted status by the United States of America and under the jurisdiction of Okmulgee Agency.

The burn permit application can be picked up at all MCN Indian community centers, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town Tribal Complex, Kialegee Tribal Town Tribal Complex, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Tribal Complex and the Okmulgee Agency Fire Building located at 1006 Eu-fula Street in OKMULGEE, Okla.

Minors eligible for photos on new IDs

MCN Citizenship/Media Release

Effective immediately, children ages 12 and older are able to have their photo placed on their Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship ID. A parent or legal guardian must be present and must present the proper identification and/or documentation.

If you have any questions please contact the Citizenship Office at 918-732-7941. Also, if you know anyone who has not updated to the new Citizenship ID card please send them our way!

MCN Social Security Q&A

MCN Social Security/Media Release

QUESTION:

What is the difference between Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

ANSWER:

SSDI pays benefits to disabled individuals who unable to work, regardless of their income and resources.

SSI pays disabled individuals who are unable to work and have limited income and resources.

QUESTION:

How much is the cost of living adjustment and when will I receive it?

ANSWER:

In 2015, there will be a 1.7 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income recipients.

The COLA will begin with Social Security benefits paid to beneficiaries in January 2015 and SSI payments made on Dec. 31, 2014.

QUESTION:

Why does my neighbor pay a smaller premium for Medicare Part B than I do?

ANSWER:

Since 2007, higher-income beneficiaries have paid a larger percentage of their Medicare Part B premium than most. Depending on their income, these higher-income beneficiaries will pay premiums that amount to 35, 50, 65 or 80 percent of the total cost of coverage. You can get details at www.medicare.gov.

QUESTION:

What is Medicare Part D?

ANSWER:

Medicare Part D helps pay for prescription medication.

QUESTION:

Can I get help paying the Part D premium?

ANSWER:

Yes, to qualify for extra help: you must reside in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia; your resources must be limited to \$13,440 for an individual or \$26,860 for a married couple living together.

Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds.

We do not count your home, car or any life insurance policy as resources. Your annual income must be limited to \$17,505 for an individual or \$23,595 for a married couple living together.

The staff at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Security Assistance Program looks forward to assisting you with any social security issue.

You may contact our office by coming into the office in the Solomon McCombs building on the MCN tribal complex or by phone at: 918-549-2479 or by mail at: MCN SSAP, PO BOX 580, Okmulgee, OK, 74447.